WMUA

MEMO

TO: JOHN C. FITZPATRICK

FROM: DICK STADLEN

COPIES: WMUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

JANUARY 14, 1970

Jack:

It has come to my attention that you have made reference to the expediency by which WMUA received Board of Trustees approval to increase its power from ten watts to 1000. You have been mentioned as stating to the effect that, according to Dean Field WMUA would have been granted the increase last April had it not been for the incompetence displayed at that time by Jay Ballard and myself. In checking with Dean Field I have found this information attributed to him to be incorrect. In fact, both Dean Field and WMUA advisor Robert Brooks acknowledge that WMUA probably would have been turned down in its request to increase power at this time had it not been for the responsible arguments offered the Broadcasting Council, the Student Affairs Committee and the various sub-committees by both Jay and myself.

Needless to say, I find your charge most distasteful and consider it a personal affront to my integrity as an individual and as General Manager of WMUA. It is further soured in my mind by the fact that such a statement was allowed to circulate among the station membership without giving either Jay or myself a chance to offer a contradiction.

Considering the gravity of the charge which has since been denied by Dean Field, I do not merely request but rather demand a written apology from you and public acknowledgement by you that you were in error in this matter.

Because your charge involves a matter so important to the present and future operation of WMUA, such as to question the necessity of holding back a power increase for almost a year, which has in turn resulted in further complications in attaining high power operation of WMUA, if you are unwilling to admit to a public apology, I will have no alternative but to bring your charge to the attention of Policy Board and let you defend yourself against Dean Field, who has expressed a willingness to clarify this matter in the most expedient way possible.

Respectfully,

Dick Stadlen

Dick Stadlen
WMUA General Manager

Dick:

I choose to write to you personally rather than let such an issue fester in the public eye for it is you, not I, that brought this issue to the public. The statement you attribute to me is false, utterly false, and I have taken the liberty to apologize to Dean Field and Mr. Brooks for your bringing them into this affair without first ascertaining the truthfulness of the statement. It is a fact that I feel that this power increase could have been granted long ago and that I feel you are responsible for some of the delays; it is also a fact that I have had conversations with Dean Field and Mr. Brooks concerning the power increase, the gists of which I shall be glad to give you in private. It is also true that I have spoken of both of these matters to, as afr as I can recall, three people: one of whom apparently spoke to you, one you have no need of knowing, and to Jay Ballard, who thus had ample opportunity to reply. I would have said the same things to you, but we rarely conversed on the subject. This information and opinion was all given with the specific understanding that it was in confidence and not for public circulation. I do not control my friends, but I do trust them. This issue was not public, it was in fact unknown until your memo.

I fail to understand why you took such pains to determine the truth of Dean Field's statement, and took no pains at all to verify my statement. I am sure you realize that such a charge comes to me even more distasteful and insulting than my alleged charge to you, especially since I was called on to explain your mistake to Dean Field and Mr. Brooks. I cannot, therefore, and will not apologize for something I did not say.

Your last paragraph reaches new heights of incomprehensibility: I understand none of it, but again I take offense at the thinly veiled threats and the presumption of guilt.

I hope that with the passage of time you will cool down a bit and look at this matter rationally, and settle any grievances you have with me in a more intelligent, gentlemanly, and above all private manner.

Jack Tufts